

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

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R 010500Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4950

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SYDNEY 2516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OCON, AS

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC LABOUR MINISTERS CONFERENCE:

SECOND DAY, OCTOBER 31

1. CONSIDERATION IN MORNING SESSION, OCT 31, OF
SECOND AGENDA ITEM, ROLE AND FUNCTION OF LABOR
DEPARTMENTS, EMPHASIZED DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES WHICH
EXIST BETWEEN SPONSORS AND MOST CONFEREES AT SOUTH
PACIFIC LABOUR MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

2. BASIC DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED BY GEORGE FOGGON,
OVERSEAS LABOR ADVISOR TO BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT
ATTENDING CONFERENCE AS MEMBER OF SOLOMON ISLANDS
DELEGATION, FOGGON PREMISE THAT SOCIAL PURPOSES TAKE
PRECEDENCE OVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUND LITTLE
SUPPORT OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IT WAS
QUESTIONED BY COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY, SPEARHEADED BY
PREMIER HENRY OF COOK ISLAND.

3. IN AFTERNNON SESSION ON FINAL AGENDA ITEM, CONSIDERATION

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OF EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND RELATED PROBLEMS, PREMIER

HENRY WAS IN CHAIR AND EXPLOITED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO
EMPHASIZE HIS BELIEF THAT ORGANIZING, TRAINING AND
LEGISLATING FOR WORKERS WAS RIDICULOUS OF THERE WAS NO WORK
IN FIRST PLACE.

4. (COMMENT: APPARENTLY, COOK ISLANDS ARE REGARDED BY NEW
ZEALAND IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS AUSTRALIA REGARDS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA. THERE IS FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY
WITHOUT DESIRE FOR AUTHORITY.) HENRY DISCOMFITTED NEW
ZEALAND'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WATTS BY REPORTING THAT
NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP, NOW EXTENDED TO COOK ISLANDERS
AS OF RIGHT, HURT HIS COUNTRY BY MAKING IT EASY FOR COOK
ISLANDERS TO LEAVE FOR HIGH WAGES IN MAJOR COUNTRY. HENRY
RELATED HOW SPECIALIST AND SKILLED WORKERS OF COOK ORIGIN
HAD TO BE "BORROWED BACK", SOMETIMES THROUGH UNITED
NATIONS AGENCIES.

5. NEW ELEMENT WAS INTRODUCED WHEN PRESIDENT HAMMER
DE ROBERT OF NAURU, BY PRE-AGREEMENT WITH SESSION CHAIRMAN
HENRY, DISCUSSED PROBABLE EFFECT ON HIS COUNTRY WHEN
MINERALS "EXPLOITATION" BY FOREIGN COMPANIES ENDS; STARTING
IN FIVE YEARS WITH COMPLETION IN FIFTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS.
GRIM PICTURE SHOWING OVER 50 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT COULD BE
HELPED, NAURU PRESIDENT SUGGESTED, BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND GOVERNMENTS PERMITTING EMPLOYMENT OF HIS PEOPLE
IN THEIR COUNTRIES NOW, ON CONTROLLED BASIS. (DE ROBERT
DID NOT PRESS IMMEDIATE ANSWER, WHICH MAJOR COUNTRIES
OBSERVABLY BELIEVED TO HEAR).

6. BOTH SESSIONS HEARD FROM ILO, UNDP, SPC AND SPEC
REPRESENTATIVES THAT AGENCIES EAGER AND WILLING TO SUPPORT
AND PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS OR TRAINING PROGRAMS IF
CONFERENCE COULD AGREE ON PROGRAM.

7. COMMENT: BY END OF DAY, AUSTRALIA'S SECRETARY OF LABOR
IAN SHARP WAS READY TO CONCEDE, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION
WITH LABATT, THAT CONFERENCE WAS "USEFULL CATHARSIS
SESSION". THIS WAS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN SHARP WAS
HOPING FOR IN WEEK BEFORE CONFERENCE. LABATT CONSIDERS
EFFORT TO STICK TO TIGHT SCENARIO HAS FAILED AND MORE
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PROBLEMS THAN ANSWERS HAVE EMERGED. AGREEMENT ON FINAL
COMMUNIQUE, TO BE WRITTEN OVERNIGHT BY "SEC. GEN". DENIS
VOLLKER, SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING EXERCISE. VOLLKER HAS
PROVIDED SESSION BY SESSION MINUTES THAT ARE MASTERPIECES
OF DISCRETE EDITING. HANNAH

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